What is Claimed:

1. An audio/video platform (AVP) for a video signal processing system, comprising:

a digital communications port for transferring control and data signals between the AVP and at least a first video device;

at least one analog video communications port for transferring video signals between a second video device and the AVP;

an infrared transmitter for transmitting infrared commands; and

a control processor coupled to the digital video communications port and to the infrared transmitter for sending control commands to the first video device via the digital communications port and for sending control commands to the second video device via the infrared transmitter.

2. An audio/video platform according to claim 1, wherein the digital communications port receives data signals from at least a third video device and the control processor is configured to control the third video device via the infrared transmitter.

3. An audio/video platform according to claim 2, wherein the digital communications port is an IEEE 1394 bus which is configured to send and receive control and data signals to the first video device as a slave device and to receive data signals from the third video device as a master device.

4. An audio/video platform according to claim 1, further including a memory for storing respective command sets for the first and second video devices.

5. An audio/video platform according to claim 1, wherein the digital communications port is configured to receive a transport stream as

specified by the moving pictures experts group (MPEG) via the digital communications port and the audio/video platform further comprises an MPEG decoder which processes the MPEG transport stream to generate a video output signal.

6. An audio/video platform according to claim 5, further comprising:

a remote control device for sending remote control commands to the audio/video platform; and

a graphics processor for generating on-screen display signals;

wherein the control processor generates on-screen display signals which display control commands for a selected one of the first and second video devices using the graphics processor and responds to corresponding commands from the remote control device to transmit corresponding commands to the selected one of the first and second video devices.

7. An audio/video platform according to claim 5, further comprising a remote control device for sending remote control commands to the audio/video platform, the remote control device including control switches for controlling the first and second video devices, wherein the control processor transmits control signals to the first and second video devices responsive to respective commands received from the remote control device to control the first and second video devices.

8. A method for controlling a plurality of video devices from an audio/video platform, wherein a first group of the plurality of video devices include respective digital communications ports and are configured as slave mode devices and a second group of the plurality of video devices include respective digital communications ports and are configured as master mode devices, at least the second group of video devices including an infrared receiver

which responds to commands transmitted by an infrared remote control device, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting digital commands to the first group of the plurality of video devices using the digital communications port; and

transmitting infrared commands to the second group of the plurality of video devices.

9. A method according to claim 8, further including the steps of:

displaying a command menu for a selected one of the first and second groups of video devices;

receiving infrared commands corresponding to the displayed command menu; and

translating the received commands into respective commands for the selected one of the first and second groups of video devices and transmitting the translated commands to the selected one of the first and second groups of video devices.

10. A method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of devices further includes a third group of devices that does not include a digital communications port but does include a further infrared receiver which responds to commands transmitted by a further infrared remote control device, the method further comprising the step of transmitting infrared commands to the third group of the plurality of devices.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

registering the first, second and third video devices to identify respective command sets for the first, second and third video devices;

storing the identified command sets for the first, second and third video devices into a memory;

responsive to a request to transmit a control signal to a selected one of the first, second and third video devices, retrieving the identified command set for the selected video device from the memory;

associating the control signal with a command from the retrieved command set; and

transmitting the associated command to the selected one of the first, second and third video devices.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the first and second video devices send data to the audio/video platform via the digital communications port and the third video device sends data to the audio/video platform via an analog data port, and the method further includes the steps of:

configuring the audio/video platform to receive data from the digital communications port when one of the first and second video devices is selected; and

configuring the audio/video platform to receive data from the analog data port when the third video device is selected.